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Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal

FOR RELEASE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1969
AFTER 8:00 P.M.
APPROXIMATELY 300 WORDS

YMCA BARES PROGRAM NEEDS

Key areas in which resources are being deployed to meet some of today's more urgent human needs were outlined Monday evening at a rally of leaders of the Montreal YMCA's 1969 financial campaign.

The fund drive, to run March 3-17, has an objective of \$375,000.

"With most of our adult programs paying their own way, we are more than 82% self-sustaining," emphasized R.G. Rogers, General Secretary of the Montreal YMCA. "It is our work with young people which requires financial backing."

He noted that outreach programs, for example, are completely subsidized with special funds. "Whether it be social activities within our own facilities, operation of a drop-in centre or work in the streets or a shopping centre, the costs are exceedingly high."

The objective of the YMCA workers engaged in such activities is to make contact with young people, help them identify concerns, guide their search for meaning and participate in the development of co-operative solutions.

"We can identify right now where 10 additional workers are needed," says Mr. Rogers.

Complementing this work are the Y's efforts to develop more real ways to bridge the generation gap and provide young people with alternatives which encourage self-development and the exercise of constructive initiative.

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"In helping prepare pre-teens for adolescence and teenagers for adulthood, we also try to provide them with experiences that enjoyably promote development and will become cherished memories in later years," commented the YMCA executive.

He also outlined some of the ways the YMCA helps promote family unity.

These include some programs which provide parents and children with opportunities to enjoy at least part of their leisure time together, and others which help people of all ages to understand and cope with change and the pressures of modern day living.

"As a logical follow-up, we plan to broaden our counselling service to cover personal, vocational and family problems of individuals and groups of all ages."

New ways are also being explored to promote harmony and understanding between Quebec's two main language groups through the development of co-operative projects and by fostering an environment in which individuals of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds will feel genuinely welcome.

Work with new Canadians is also being expanded, especially in run down regions of the city. Here, YMCA workers initiate self-help projects, explain the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and prepare newcomers for economic and cultural opportunities.

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